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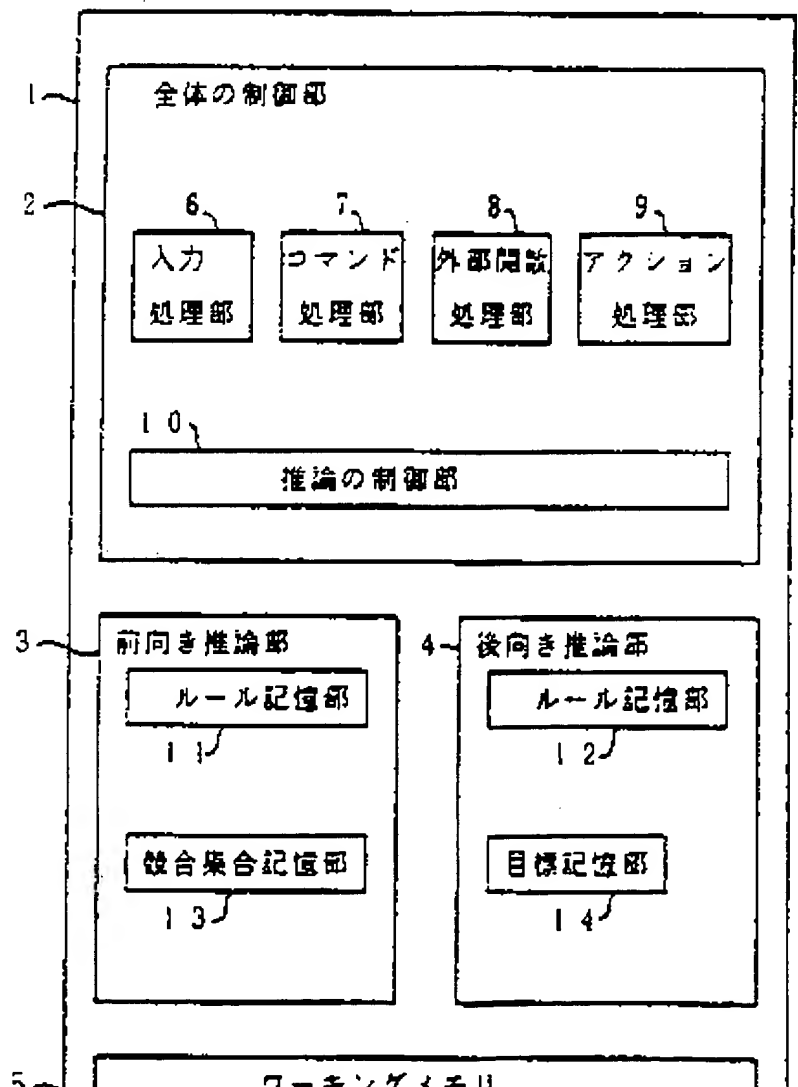
(74) Representative:

(54) QUESTION ANSWERING DEVICE

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To facilitate the change of the priority order into the forward inference from the backward inference as well as the deletion/restoration of rules by adding the actions for the change of the priority order and the deletion/restoration of rules to the conditional part of the backward inference.

CONSTITUTION: The forward and backward inference rules for forward and backward inference control and the facts are inputted to a device for answering question and then stored in the rule memories 11 and 12 and a working memory 5. In this case, the priority degrees are given to the forward inference rules and stored in the memory 5. Furthermore the commands are given as necessary to a forward inference control part 10 or the prescribed one of backward inference rules for actions of the change of the priority degrees given to the forward inference rules and



to the forward inference rules and the deletion/restoration of rules. These commands are stored in the memory 11. Thus it is possible to easily change the priority degrees of the forward inference rules and to easily carry out the deletion/restoration processes of rules via the forward and backward inference rule actions.

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